

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O P 210900Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6961

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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S E C R E T TOKYO 12271

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, VN

SUBJ: JAPAN-DRV RELATIONS

NOFORN

REF: A. TOKYO 11780; B. TOKYO 12067

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED ON SEPT 21 IMPENDING ANNOUNCEMENT OF ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND DRV WITH FONOFF FIRST SE ASIA DIVISION HEAD HANABUSA. JOINT COMMUNIQUE WILL BE ISSUED 8 PM TOKYO TIME SEPT 21. ACCORDING TO HANABUSA, COMMUNIQUE WILL CONTAIN NO RPT NO SURPRISES AND WILL MERELY ANNOUNCE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

2. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON BACKGROUND OF TALKS THEMSELVES, HANABUSA STRESSED SENSITIVITY OF NEGOTIATIONS AND ASKED THAT CONFIDENTIALITY OF HIS REMARKS BE RESPECTED. HE CONFIRMED THAT ISSUE OF US USING JAPAN FOR SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO SVN HAD POSED NO RPT NO PROBLEM IN TALKS. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT APPEARED UNBELIEVABLE, DRV NEGOTIATORS HAD NOT RPT NOT MENTIONED ECONOMIC AID EVEN ONCE DURING TWO MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS. HANABUSA ASSERTED THAT HAD HE BEEN DRV NEGOTIATOR HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE BROUGHT UP AID SINCE IT WOULD
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REPRESENT EXPLOITABLE WEAKNESS ON PART OF DRV IF THEY DID SO.

3. MOST DIFFICULT AND SENSITIVE ISSUE AS QUESTION OF

PRG. OUT OF RESPECT FOR SENSITIVITIES OF GVN, THROUGH-
OUT NEGOTIATIONS, JAPAN STATED THAT GOJ RECOGNIZED
GVN AS SOLE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF SVN. DRV WITH EQUAL
FIRMNESS STATED THAT THERE WERE QTE TWO ADMINISTRATIONS
UNQTE IN SVN. HANABUSA SAID DISCUSSIONS ON
PRG WERE AT TIMES HEATED BUT BOTH SIDES MAINTAINED
THEIR POSITIONS. MATTER WAS LEFT UNRESOLVED. QUERIED,
HANABUSA SAID THAT GOJ MADE NO RPT NO MINOR CONCESSIONS
SUCH AS WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT VIETNAMESE TO TRAVEL ON
PRG PASSPORTS TO JAPAN. HANABUSA STRESSED IN CONCLUSION
THAT STRICT SECRECY OF THIS WHOLE QUESTION MUST BE
MAINTAINED. WERE IT KNOWN THAT GOJ INFORMED OTHER
GOVERNMENTS OF THIS POINT, HANABUSA SAID IT WOULD
HAVE SERIOUSLY DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS ON GOJ-DRV RELATIONS
AND WOULD ALSO CAUSE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS FOR GOJ.

4. HANABUSA SAID DECISION ON WHEN EMBASSIES WOULD BE
ESTABLISHED IN HANOI AND TOKYO WAS NOT YET DECIDED.
HE NOTED NUMEROUS LOGISTICS PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN DECISION.
SHOESMITH

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